NEWS RELEASE

Office of Commissioner Brandon Presley MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NORTHERN DISTRICT

Presley Highlights \$50 Broadband Monthly Discount

(September 28, 2021) Today, Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley announced that he is working to raise consumer awareness about the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a new federal program that provides a \$50 a month broadband benefit discount for eligible families.

"During this pandemic, we have seen just how vital internet service is to every family. I'm proud to do my part in highlighting this program and raise awareness so that Mississippi families can save. This \$50 monthly discount for broadband service is real savings for real families. I urge customers to reach out to their provider to see if they qualify for these savings," said Commissioner Presley.

A household is eligible if one member of the household meets at least *one* of the criteria below:

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program
 or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility
 Provision, in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school year
- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the <u>Federal Poverty Guidelines</u> or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid or the FCC's <u>Lifeline</u> program
- Experienced a substantial loss of income through job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program

Eligible households can enroll through a <u>participating broadband provider</u> or directly with the <u>Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)</u> using an online or mail-in application. Additional information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit is available at https://getemergencybroadband.org/. If you have further questions, please contact Commissioner Presley's office at 1-800-637-7722



for more information contact: